

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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FOR IEA, STATE FOR EA

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SUBJ: HONGKONG PRESS ON US-CHINA RELATIONS

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST TODAY CARRIED FRONTPAGE STORY
HEADLINED" WILL U.S. AND CHINA GO ALL THE WAY?" EXCERPTS
FOLLOW:

1. AMERICA MAY BE CAUTIOUSLY MOVING TOWARDS FULL RECOGNITION
OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC AS THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF ALL
CHINA.
2. TOP-LEVEL CHINESE OFFICIALS IN PEKING AND HONGKONG ARE
TELLING CONFIDANTS THAT FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION IS THE
MAIN ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING IN CHINA LATER THIS
MONTH OF AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER,
AND CHINESE PRIME MINISTER, MR. CHOU EN-LAI.
3. THE CHINESE SOURCES ARE BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL.

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4. OBVIOUSLY, THEY CANNOT BE NAMED, BUT ARE MEMBERS OF

THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

5. THEY HAVE GIVEN DETAILS OF THE FORTHCOMING KISSINGER VISIT TO BRITISH SOURCES IN HONGKONG AND PEKING.

6. SUCH LEAKS FROM CHINESE GOVERNMENT SOURCES ARE HIGHLY UNUSUAL, AND LAST NIGHT THERE WAS SPECULATION ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE DELIBERATE BUT DELICATE DISCLOSURES.

7. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, AMERICA AND CHINA WILL MUTUALLY AGREE ON FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION WITHIN A YEAR....

8. ACCORDING TO THE POLITICAL SCENARIO PLAYED OUT BY THE TOP CHINESE SOURCES, HERE IS HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING WILL GO.

9. THE FIRST STEP, WILL BE FOR DR. KISSINGER AND MR. CHOU TO AGREE ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION, A LOGICAL STEP FOLLOWING THE DRAMATIC REVERSAL IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE THE PING-PONG DIPLOMATS SMASHED DOWN THE BAMBOO CURTAIN IN APRIL 1971....

10. IT IS BELIEVED THAT FOLLOWING AGREEMENT BETWEEN MR. CHOU AND DR. KISSINGER, THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA WILL JOINTLY MAKE A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR MOVE.

12. THE SOURCES INDICATED IT WILL BE ALONG THE SAME LINES AS JAPAN'S RECOGNITION OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AS THE LEGAL REGIME.

12. BEFORE JAPAN RECOGNISED PEKING, THE JAPANESE OPENED A "TRADE OFFICE" IN TAIPEI. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH THE NATIONALISTS, THIS "TRADE OFFICE" FUNCTIONED AS AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY, UNTIL "SINO-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES," STARTED TO UNOFFICIALLY REPRESENT JAPAN.

13. SIGNIFICANTLY, AMERICA, WHICH HAS A FULLY-STAFFED EMBASSY IN TAIWAN OPENED A SIMILAR "TRADE OFFICE" IN TAIPEI TWO MONTHS AGO.

14. WHEN THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATS MOVE OUT OF TAIWAN, THE

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"TRADE OFFICERS" WILL TAKE OVER AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LARGE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN TAIWAN.

15. AT THE SAME TIME, MR. DAVID BRUCE, AT PRESENT "LIAISON OFFICER" IN PEKING, WILL BE UPGRADED TO FULL AMBASSADORIAL STATUS. MR. BRUCE IS EXPECTED TO BECOME AMERICA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO CHINA SINCE THE LAST U.S. OFFICIAL DIPLOMATS MOVED OUT WITH THE DEFEATED NATIONALISTS IN 1949...

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